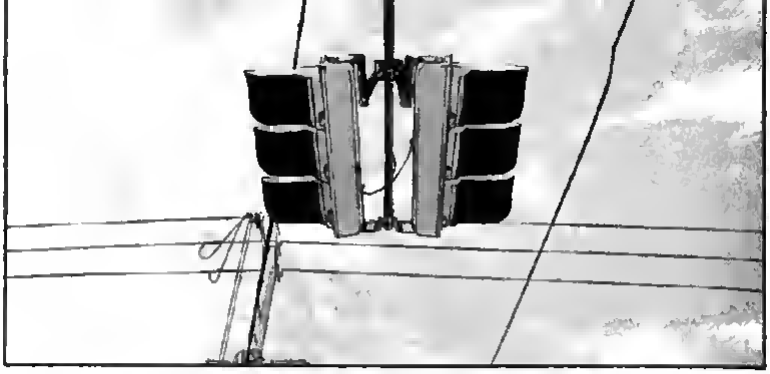
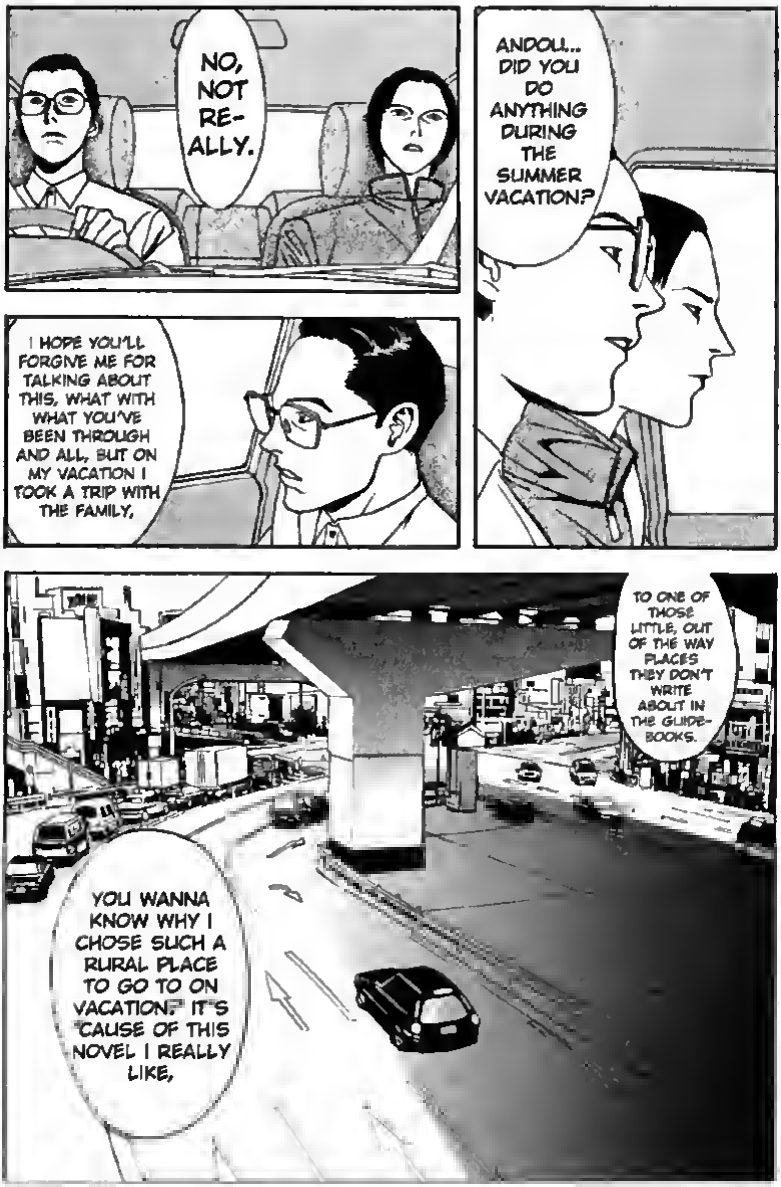


SO THAT THE VIRUS COULD THRIVE--
SO THAT IT COULD SPREAD.

IT IS.

IT'S UP TO US TO SOLVE THIS THING, ISN'T IT?


NO, NOT RE-ALLY.
ANDOU... DID YOU DO ANYTHING DURING THE SUMMER VACATION?
I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR TALKING ABOUT THIS, WHAT WITH WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH AND ALL, BUT ON MY VACATION I TOOK A TRIP WITH THE FAMILY,
TO ONE OF THOSE LITTLE, OUT OF THE WAY PLACES THEY DON'T WRITE ABOUT IN THE GUIDE-BOOKS.
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY I CHOSE SUCH A RURAL PLACE TO GO TO ON VACATION? IT'S 'CAUSE OF THIS NOVEL I REALLY LIKE,

THE BOOK SAID THAT IF YOU LOOK OUT AT THE HORIZON FROM THAT FISHING VILLAGE, YOU'D SEE THIS KILLER MIRAGE. AND I BELIEVED IT.
THAT TAKES PLACE IN A LITTLE FISHING VILLAGE. JUST ONCE, I THOUGHT, I'D LIKE TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT FOR MYSELF, YOU KNOW, SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE.

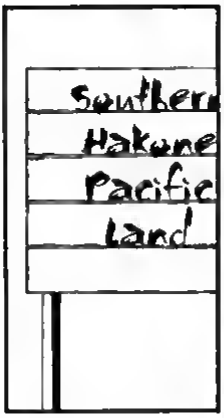
.....
BUT WHEN I GOT THERE, I DIDN'T SEE ANY MIRAGE ...
YOU EVER VISIT THE SETTING OF A NOVEL?
A COUPLE TIMES ...
AND WHAT DID YOU THINK?
WELL, IT WAS KIND OF LIKE, "THIS IS IT?"
DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'D IMAGINED, THEN?
MORE LIKE I'D BEEN LIED TO, YOU KNOW?

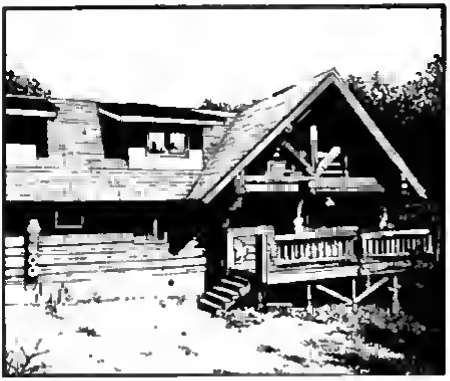
I'D SAY IT'D BE PRETTY UNUSUAL IF YOU COULD FIND TWO THAT WERE A PERFECT MATCH.
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, THEN, IS THAT THE REALITY OF A SCENERY IS DIFFERENT FROM THE IMPRESSION YOU GET READING ABOUT IT IN A NOVEL?
I READ THAT REPORT JUST ONCE. SKIMMED THROUGH IT, REALLY.
YOU REMEMBER THE "RING" REPORT PRETTY WELL?
OF COURSE.

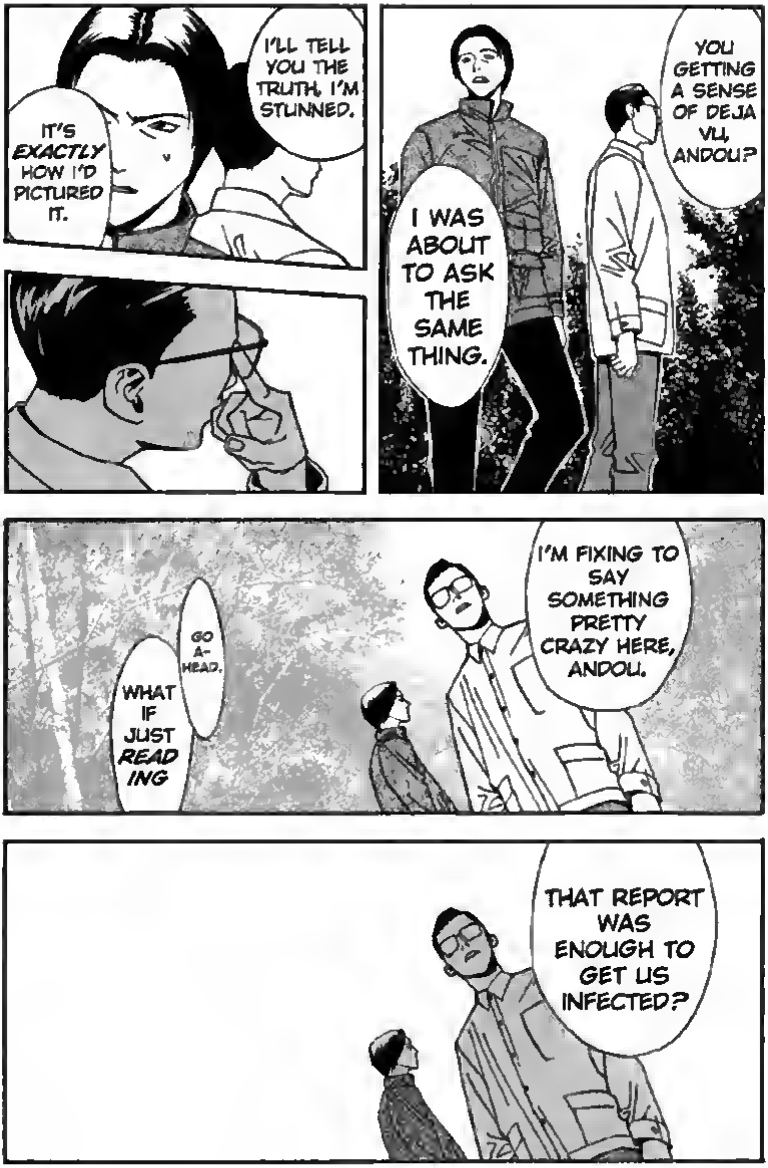
I EVEN DREAM OF THEM: THE WELL; THE SANITORIUM AT HAKONE; PROFESSOR HEIHACHIRO; YAMAMURA SHIZUKO; NAGAO JOUTARO... YAMAMURA SADAKO....
AND?
AND YET, EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T EVEN READ THROUGH IT THAT CLOSELY, I CAN STILL PICTURE THE SCENES CLEARLY IN MY HEAD. NO, NOT EVEN PICTURE, IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BURNED INTO MY MEMORY.

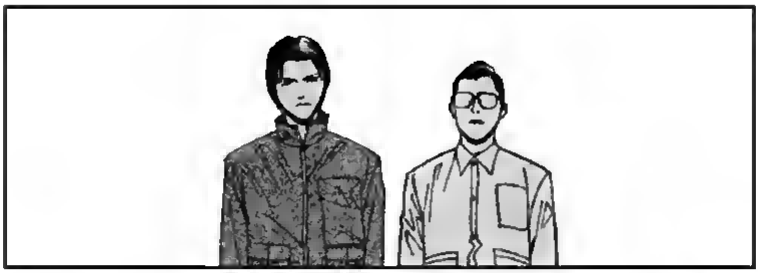
RIGHT DOWN TO THE CHUNK MISSING OUT OF ONE SIDE OF THE WELL.
THE SAME DREAMS OVER AND OVER, LIKE IMAGES LOOPED ON A VIDEOTAPE.
AND I CAN VISUALIZE EVERYTHING SO CLEARLY,
WEIRD. HUH? THE REPORT DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT CHUNKS MISSING OUT OF THE WELL, BUT...
WHAT?!

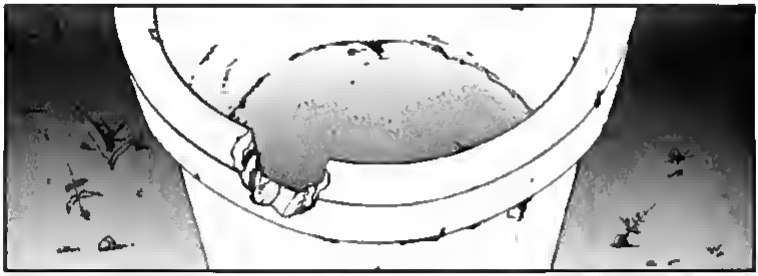
I'VE HAD THE SAME DREAM.
THIS'LL BE YOUR FIRST TIME OUT TO HAKONE PACIFIC LAND, RIGHT?
OF COURSE. YOU?
LET'S CHECK THIS PLACE OUT FOR OURSELVES, ANDOU. AND IF WHAT WE SEE MATCHES WHAT BOTH YOU AND I HAVE IMAGINED...
I'D NEVER EVEN HEARD OF IT BEFORE ASA-KAWA'S REPORT.


Southern
Hakone
Pacific
Land



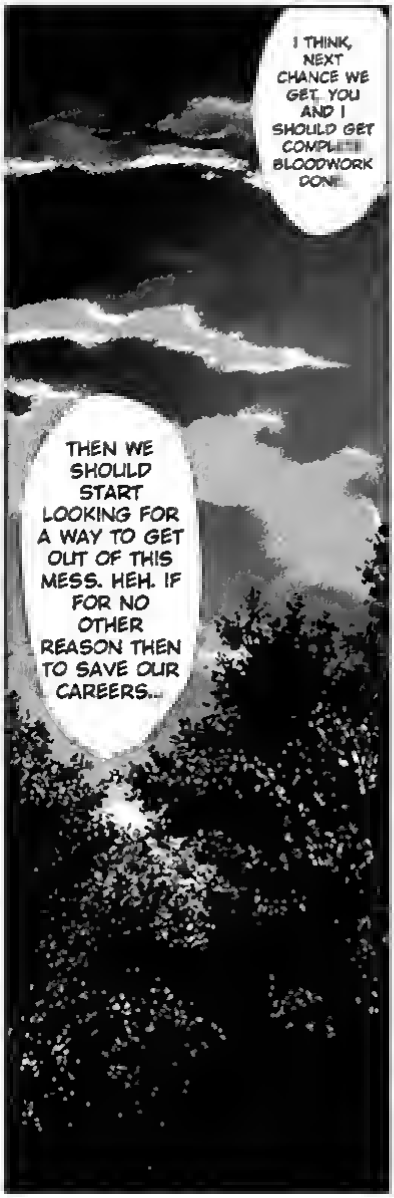

I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH. I'M STUNNED.
IT'S EXACTLY HOW I'D PICTURED IT.
YOU GETTING A SENSE OF DEJA VU, ANDOU?
I WAS ABOUT TO ASK THE SAME THING.
I'M FIXING TO SAY SOMETHING PRETTY CRAZY HERE, ANDOU.
GO A-HEAD.
WHAT IF JUST READ ING
THAT REPORT WAS ENOUGH TO GET US INFECTED?





ANDOU, WOULD YOU SAY I'VE GOT A PRETTY WIFE?
YEAH.
AND A CUTE KID?
UH-HUH
AND THAT I'M JUST AN ORDINARY-LOOKING GUY WITH GLASSES?
YOU *ARE* AN ORDINARY-LOOKING GUY WITH GLASSES.
SO, I'D HAVE TO BE PRETTY LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WIFE WHO'S ALSO A GREAT PERSON.
I'D SAY SO, YES.

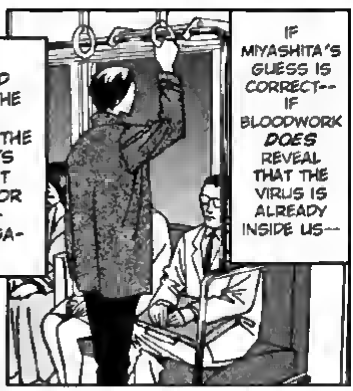
I WAS EVEN SORTA LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HOW THINGS WERE GONNA TURN OUT.
JESUS, MAN, I DON'T WANNA DIE! I GUESS I WAS BEING TOO MUCH THE OPTIMIST, HUH? THINKING I COULD JUST SIT ON THE SIDELINES LIKE SOME SORT OF OBSERVER.
SHIT.


I THINK, NEXT CHANCE WE GET, YOU AND I SHOULD GET COMPLETE BLOODWORK DONE.
THEN WE SHOULD START LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS. HEH. IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THEN TO SAVE OUR CAREERS...

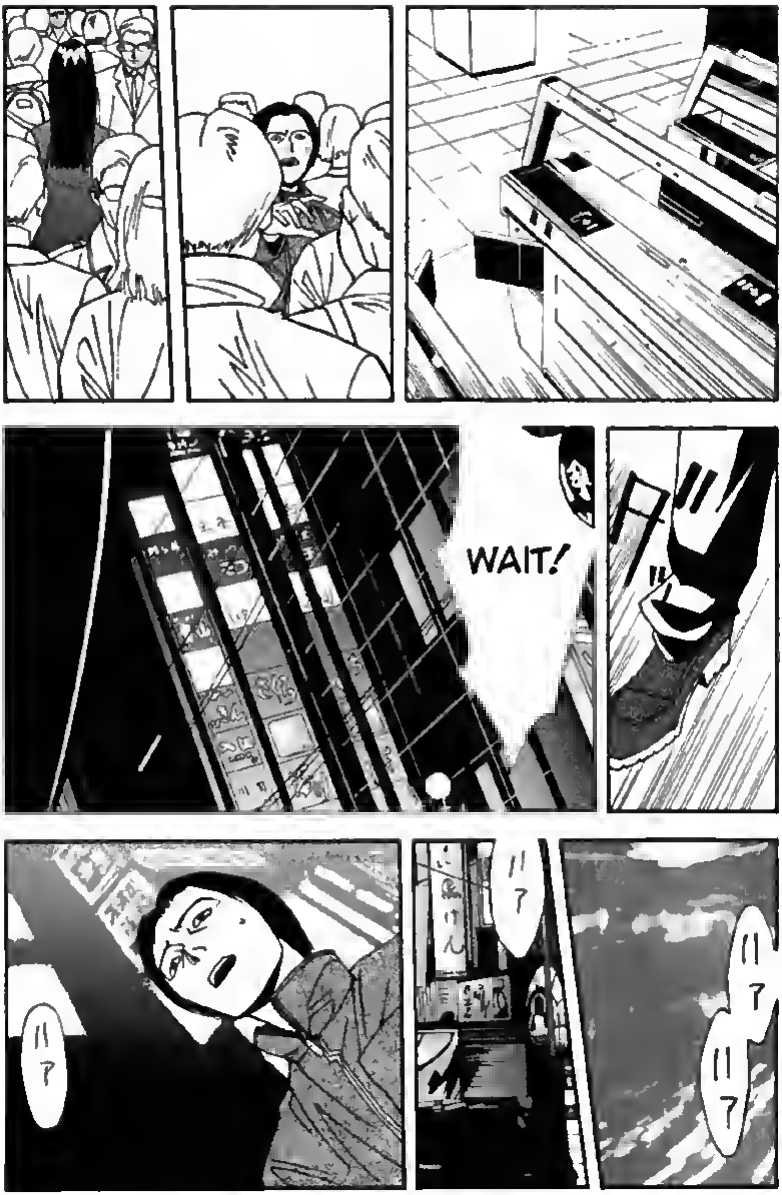
YEAH. ME, TOO.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO DROP YOU OFF HERE?
I DON'T MIND TAKING YOU BACK TO YOUR APART-MENT.
BUT THEN YOU'D HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY BACK TO GET TO YOUR PLACE. I'M FINE TAKING THE TRAIN.
YOU SHOULD GET BACK BEFORE YOUR FAMILY STARTS WORRYING ABOUT YOU.
OK.
.....
YEAH ... I'LL CALL YOU, OK?

THAT WOULD MAKE THE RING REPORT THE VIRUS'S LATEST TOOL FOR SELF-PROPAGATION.


IF MIYASHITA'S GUESS IS CORRECT-- IF BLOODWORK *DOES* REVEAL THAT THE VIRUS IS ALREADY INSIDE US--

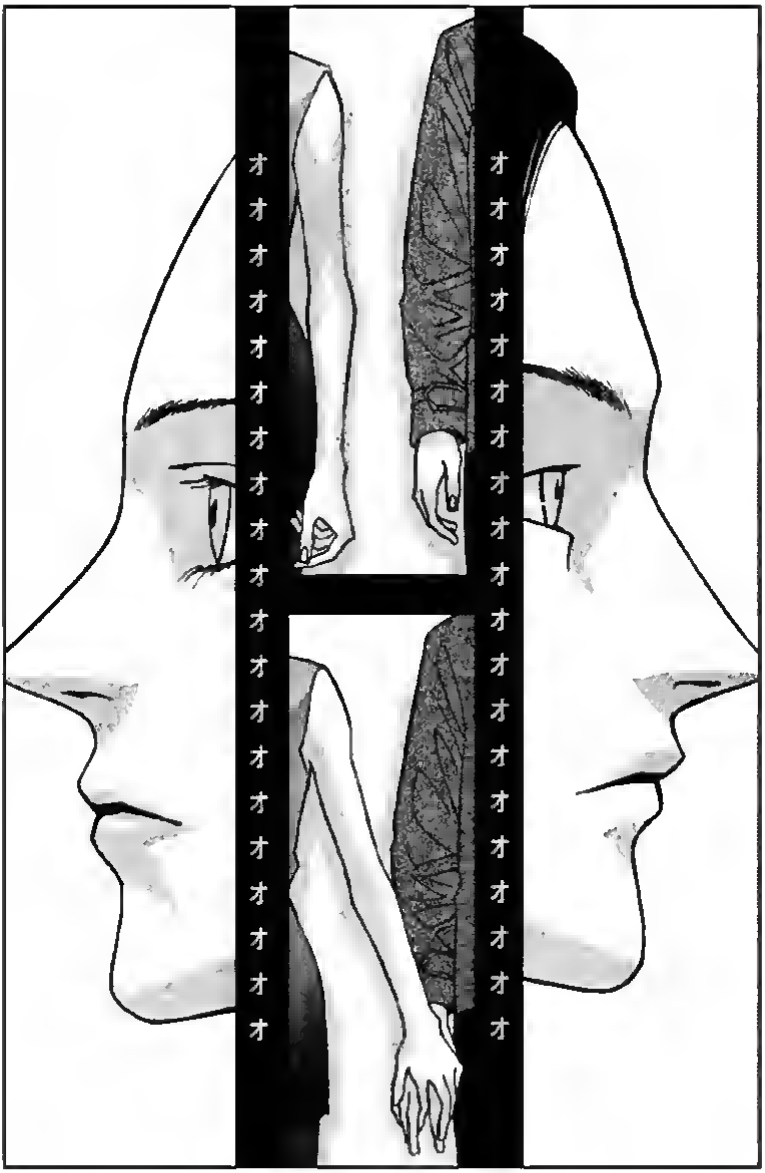
3
THAT GIRL!


WAIT!

LOST HER..
さくらや
キャッ
ポン
ガァァ

ガコン

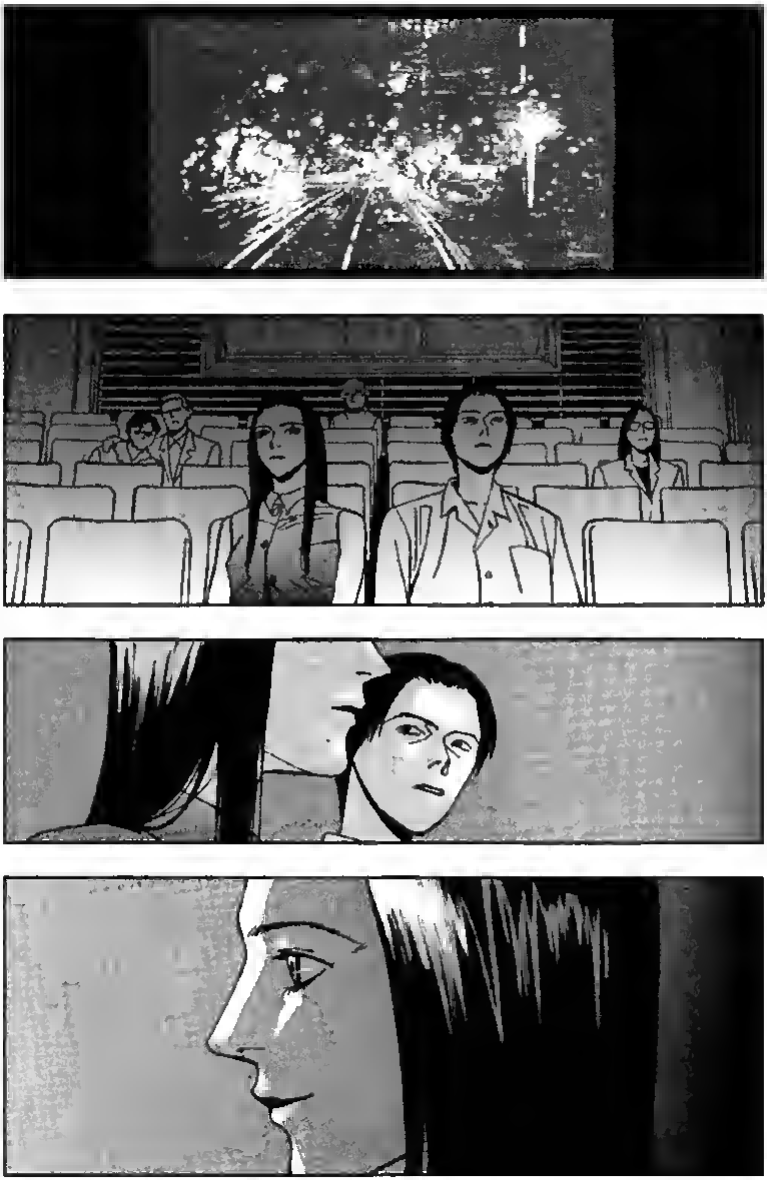
ゴオオオオオオオオオ


オオオオ

RASEH CHAPTER 5
HENSHA.NET
#HENSHA@IRC.ANIVERSE.COM
TRANSLATOR: J. LOPEZ
EDITOR: MIHARU

ア
ハア
ハア
ハア

I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T EVEN ASK YOUR NAME...
WHY DON'T WE GO SEE A MOVIE?
I'D LIKE TO GO SEE A MOVIE.
GOOD MORN-ING.



ANDOU! WHERE THE HELL^VE YOU BEEN ALL MORNING? I^VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR HOURS.
HELLO ?
DR RR RR IN NN NG
WHAT? YOU WENT TO GO SEE A MOVIE?
YEAH, I WAS... AT THE MOVIES.
WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE TAKING THINGS IN STRIDE, MR. I-DON'T-HAVE-A-CARE-IN-THE-WORLD! ANYWAY, I'VE GOT SOME INFO FOR YOU. YOU KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN TODAY?
THREE, ACTU-ALLY.

DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF THERE, PUNCHY. UNLIKE YOU, I WAS OUT DOING SOME LEGWORK.
AND YOU SAY I DON'T HAVE A CARE IN THE--
TO THE THE-ATER.
THE THE-ATER?
TO BE MORE SPE-CIFIC, TRYING TO FIND OUT
CHECKING UP ON SOMETHING PRETTY IMPORTANT, ACTUALLY! YAMAMURA SADAKO.
BINGO.
HER PHOTO!
WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE.
WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE? YOU DO REALIZE SHE'S DEAD, DON'T YOU!? HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY "CHECK UP ON" ...
THOUGHT TO QUESTION, EH, WHAT SADAKO LOOKED LIKE. BUT WHEN I SAW THAT PICTURE OF HER FROM THE ACTING TROUPE...
WHEN SADAKO JOINED THE ACTING TROUPE, THEY PUT A PHOTO OF HER ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER INFOR-MATION IN HER FILE. THAT WAS SOMETHING WE NEVER

WHAT ?
YOU SAW IT, RIGHT? AND?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "DIFFERENT?"
...IT WAS DIFFERENT.
I DIDN'T GET IT AT FIRST EITHER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?
I MEAN, YES, IT WAS A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU AND I BOTH SAW FROM READING THE REPORT, BUT...
THE PERSON IN THAT PHOTOGRAPH DID NOT MATCH THE IMAGE OF HER I GOT FROM THE REPORT.

I ASKED HIM ONCE, WHAT KIND OF FACE WAS THE HARDEST FOR HIM TO DRAW. HE TOLD ME THAT SINCE EACH FACE HAS ITS OWN DISTINCTIVE QUALITIES, REPRODUCING *ANY* FACE IS EASY... BUT IF PRESSED FOR AN ANSWER
BUT THEN I REMEMBERED SOMETHING A FRIEND OF MINE SAID. THIS GUY WHO'S ALSO AN EXCELLENT SKETCH ARTIST.
IT MEANS I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF ASAKAWA WROTE THAT REPORT AT ALL.
YES, BUT WHAT DOES IT *MEAN*?
AN ARTIST HAS OF HIMSELF. THE MORE WHAT HE DRAWS IS LESS LIKELY TO RESEMBLE WHAT HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE.
HE'D HAVE TO SAY THAT HIS *OWN* FACE GAVE HIM THE MOST PROBLEMS. APPARENTLY, THE STRONGER A SELF-